



PUBLIC NOTICE

**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

Public Notice/Application No.: 200401928-DLC

Comment Period: 10/12/2004 through 11/12/2004

Project Manager: Deanna L. Cummings email: deanna.l.cummings@usace.army.mil

Applicant

Mir Velten
Riverside County Waste Management Dist.
14310 Frederick Street
Moreno Valley, California 92553

Location

The proposed project is an expansion of Lamb Canyon Landfill near Beaumont, Riverside County, California (at: lat:33-52-55.1280 lon:116-59-53.1960).

Activity

The applicant proposes to expand the Lamb Canyon Landfill (see attached drawings). For more information see page 3 of this notice.

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the proposed work, which would become a part of the record and would be considered in the decision. This permit would be issued or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1344). Comments should be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
Regulatory Branch
ATTN: CESPL-CO-R-200401928-DLC
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, California 90053-2325

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: deanna.l.cummings@usace.army.mil

Evaluation Factors

The decision whether to issue a permit would be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision would reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal would be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that would be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material, the evaluation of the activity would include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received would be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Preliminary Review of Selected Factors

EIS Determination- A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

Water Quality- The applicant is required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. Section 401 requires that any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers prior to permit issuance. For any proposed activity on Tribal land that is subject to Section 404 jurisdiction, the applicant would be required to obtain water quality certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Coastal Zone Management- This project is located outside of the coastal zone and would not affect coastal zone resources.

Cultural Resources- The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and this site is not listed. This review constitutes the extent of cultural resources investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources.

Endangered Species- Preliminary determinations indicate that the proposed activity may affect a federally-listed endangered or threatened species, Stephen's Kangaroo Rat. Informal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is ongoing.

Public Hearing- Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required

Purpose and Need

Basic Project Purpose- The basic project purpose comprises the fundamental, essential, or irreducible purpose of the proposed project, and is used by the Corps to determine whether the applicant's project is water dependent. The basic project purpose for the proposed project is waste disposal, a non-water dependent activity.

Overall Project Purpose- The overall project purpose is determined by further defining the basic project purpose to describe the applicant's specific project, and serves as the basis for the Corps' 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis. The overall project purpose for the proposed project is to provide additional landfill capacity for Riverside County after the projected closure of the Edom Hill landfill in 2004.

Need- The applicant proposes to conduct an expansion of the Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill. The proposed project would impact 0.667 acre of non-wetland waters of the U.S., including portions of drainages C, D, E, F, and H. The expansion would increase the landfill footprint from 178.1 to 353.4 acres, increasing the capacity from 1900 tons per day to 3000 tons per day. That applicant states that the need for the project is the increase in County landfill capacity, as the existing Edom Hill landfill would be closed in 2004, when it reaches its ultimate design disposal capacity.

Additional Project Information

Proposed Alternatives- The applicant has submitted the following alternatives for analysis. The Corps considers these alternatives to be a reasonable range of alternatives.

1. Preferred Project - With implementation of the Project as designed, Lamb Canyon would be expanded to accommodate a maximum daily total of 3,000 tons per day (tpd). When the Edom Hill Landfill closes in 2004, 400 tpd of the Coachella Valley municipal solid waste (MSW) would be diverted to El Sobrante, with the remainder hauled to Lamb Canyon and Badlands. Lamb Canyon would continue to accommodate the current MSW load, as well as the diversion of CV MSW from Edom Hill Transfer Station. The expanded capacity would allow for disposal of both local MSW and hauled Coachella Valley MSW at Lamb Canyon. Ultimate capacity of Lamb Canyon would be increased from 8,260,558 tons to 16,244,000 tons, with an expected landfill life through 2023. Through the expanded Metallic Recycling Area and Central Accumulation Facility, the Department would be better able to encourage and promote resource recovery and the proper handling of hazardous waste. To accommodate drainage from the landfill, a sedimentation basin would be constructed at the southwest corner of the landfill where Drainages D, E and F converge (Refer to Figure 1). Large portions of Drainages C and D may be impacted through construction of slope stability buttresses, features necessary to ensure seismic safety of the expanded landfill footprint.

Stockpile areas may be created in any or all of the following drainages:

- Drainage B, 0.25 million cubic yard capacity
- Drainage C, 1.7 million cubic yard capacity
- Drainage D, 1.5 million cubic yard capacity

The maximum total stockpile capacity for Alternative 1 would total up to 3.5 million cubic yards. It is estimated that the removal of approximately 6 million cubic yards of soil would be required for the entire Phase II expansion project. Only by stockpiling a portion of this material and utilizing soil continuously for daily landfill cover would it be possible for the Department to accommodate the total volume of relocated soil over the life of the Project.

As a result of project activities, impacts to aquatic resources would be as follows:

- Fill of 0.667 acres of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "waters of the U.S."
- Fill of 1.174 acres of CDFG jurisdictional area

2. Proposed Alternative, Reduced Impacts in Drainages B, C, and D - Alternative 2 represents a redesign of activities on the project site. Rather than stockpiling soil in Drainages B, C and D, implementation of this Alternative would utilize only Drainage C and the northernmost portion of Drainage D for soil stockpiling (Refer to Figure 4). Stockpile areas might be created in either or both of the following drainages:

- Drainage C, 1.7 million cubic yard capacity
- Drainage D (northern portion only), 0.75 million cubic yard capacity

The maximum total stockpile capacity available for Alternative 2 would be 2.45 million cubic yards, approximately 30% less than the Project as designed. Such a reduction in stockpile capacity would impose moderate to severe constraints upon project design, construction budget, and timely completion. Substantial delays in completion dates would necessitate the diversion of Coachella Valley MSW to Badlands prior to completion of Alternative 2, resulting in local impacts to Traffic on State Highway 60. Once Alternative 2 was completed, Lamb Canyon would be able to accept the full allotment of MSW diverted from the Coachella Valley. The lifespan and maximum final capacity of the landfill under this Alternative would be comparable to the Project as designed (Alternative 1).

Under this Alternative, landfill expansion would avoid impacts to Drainage B and the majority of Drainage D. Only the northern portion of Drainage D would be utilized for construction of slope stability buttresses, while the drainages south of D-3 would be preserved through the implementation of Alternative 2. With implementation of this Alternative, there would be a 7% reduction of impacts to "Waters of the U.S." and a 6% reduction of impacts to CDFG resources from the project as planned.

3. Proposed Alternative, Reduced Impacts in Drainage C - Implementation of this Alternative would avoid impacts to 0.182 acre of ACOE Waters of the U.S. and 0.374 acre of CDFG jurisdictional aquatic resources in Drainage C, although impacts to this drainage would not be entirely avoided. While no stockpiling would take place in Drainage C under this Alternative, one or more buttresses would have to be erected in the southeastern portion of the drainage in order to ensure geological stability. While excavation took place prior to liner construction it would be necessary to relocate the excavated soil to Drainage D, further to the south on the Lamb Canyon property. Stockpile areas might be created in either or both of the following drainages:

- Drainage B, 0.35 million cubic yard capacity
- Drainage D, 1.5 million cubic yard capacity

The maximum total stockpile capacity available for Alternative 3 would be 1.85 million cubic yards, approximately 49% less than the Project as designed. Such a reduction in stockpile capacity would impose severe constraints upon project design, construction budget, and timely completion. Significant delays in completion dates would necessitate the diversion of Coachella Valley MSW to Badlands prior to completion of Alternative 3, resulting in local impacts to Traffic on State Highway 60. Once Alternative 3 was completed, Lamb Canyon would be able to accept the full allotment of MSW diverted from the Coachella Valley. The lifespan and maximum final capacity of the landfill under this Alternative would be comparable to the Project as designed (Alternative 1).

4. Proposed Alternative, No Impacts to Waters of the U.S. - Alternative 4 represents a redesign of the project resulting in avoidance of impacts in Drainage B and minimization of impacts in Drainages C and D. Under this Alternative, stockpiling would take place only on the upland area immediately south of Drainage B. Impacts to drainages would be limited to geotechnical stabilization activities, such as the construction of buttresses.

Under this Alternative, soil excavated from the liner area would be stockpiled in the north central part

of the site, which is located just south of Drainage B. The maximum total stockpile capacity for Alternative 4 would be approximately 300,000 cubic yards, approximately 79% less than the Project as designed. Such a reduction in stockpile capacity would impose severe constraints upon project design, construction budget, and timely completion. The shortage in stockpile capacity might be alleviated in part through offsite hauling of excavated soil. Following closure of Edom Hill Landfill, it would be necessary to divert Coachella Valley MSW to Badlands prior to completion of Alternative 4, resulting in local impacts to Traffic on State Highway 60. Once Alternative 4 was completed, Lamb Canyon would be able to accept the full allotment of MSW diverted from the Coachella Valley. The lifespan and maximum final capacity of the landfill under this Alternative would be comparable to the Project as designed (Alternative 1).

5. Proposed Alternative, No Action - Under the No Action Alternative, no expansion would take place in the landfill footprint. With the number of approved and pending specific plans in the area, Riverside County is currently the fastest-growing county in the state of California. The average local waste stream MSW is projected to be approximately 651 tpd in 2004, increasing by a factor of at least 4% annually. The portion of Coachella Valley MSW designated for disposal at Lamb Canyon is projected to reach a minimum of 802.5 tpd by the year 2008. Continuing to accept both diverted Coachella Valley MSW and local waste, Lamb Canyon would reach ultimate capacity during 2013. Any reduction in the amount of Coachella Valley MSW accepted at Lamb Canyon would necessitate increased hauling to Badlands, creating additional traffic and air quality impacts in the region.

Under this Alternative, impacts to stream Segments D, E and F (totaling 0.07 acre) would be limited to those incurred through construction of the sedimentation basin. The water quality and flood control functions performed by this structure lower the risk of flood hazards and any discharge of sediment and pollutants to the San Jacinto River which might be in violation of the Waste Discharge Requirements established by SARWQCB Order 01-34 for New Development in the San Jacinto Watershed. Under the No Action Alternative, the Central Accumulation Facility and Materials Recovery Facility would not be constructed as planned.

6. Proposed Alternative, Off-Site - For the Department to accommodate the Coachella Valley MSW without the Project would require hauling most of the Coachella Valley MSW designated for Lamb Canyon to Badlands. Operational impacts associated with disposal at BSL would be similar to those assessed for Lamb Canyon; in addition, traffic and air quality impacts would be greater as a result of the longer hauling distance.

Proposed Special Conditions - No special conditions are proposed at this time, however, the Corps may include special conditions in the final permit developed as a part of the permit review process.

For additional information please call Deanna L. Cummings of my staff at (213) 452-3289. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Branch.

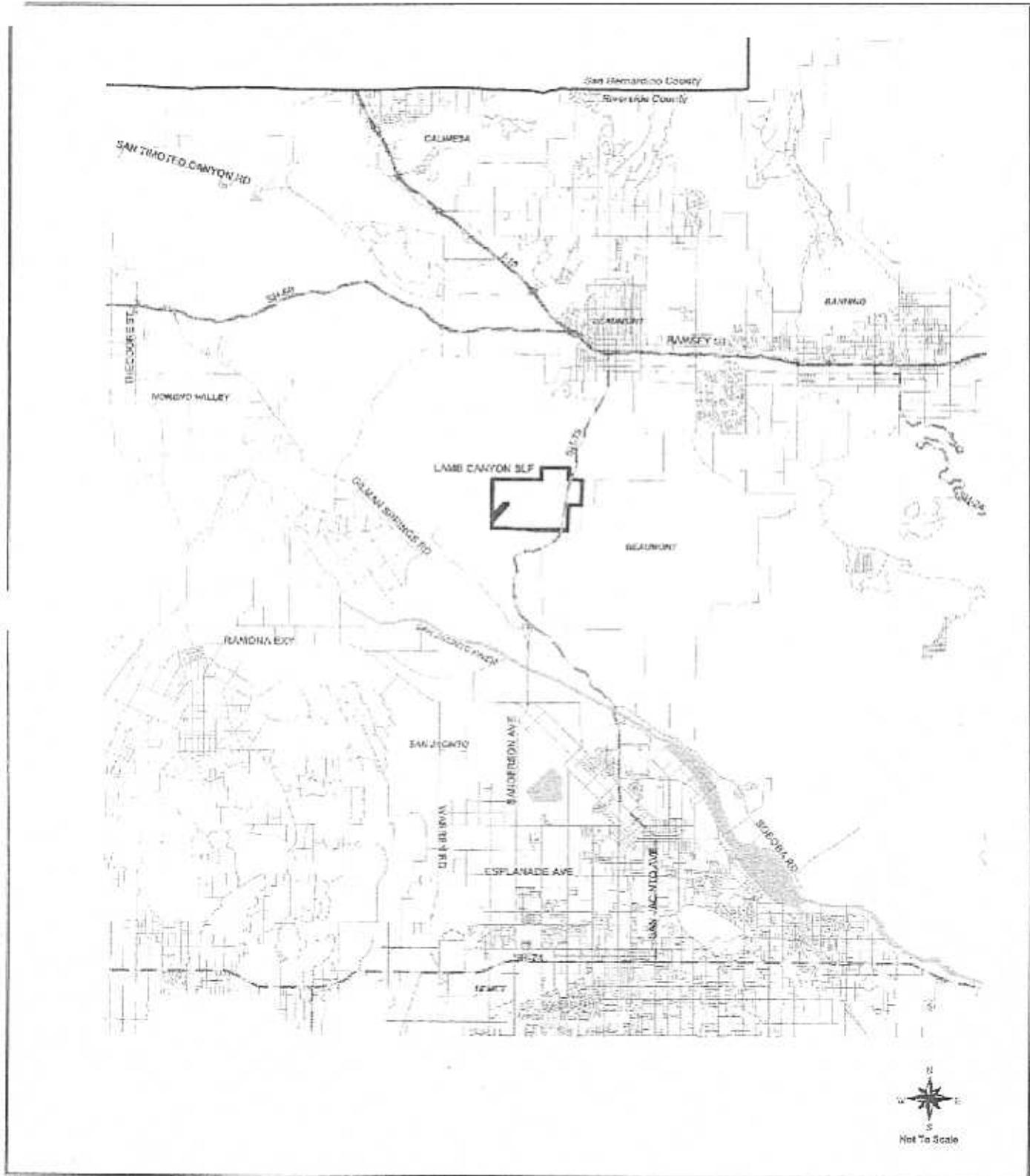


Figure 1. Lamb Canyon Landfill Vicinity Map
Riverside County Waste Management Department

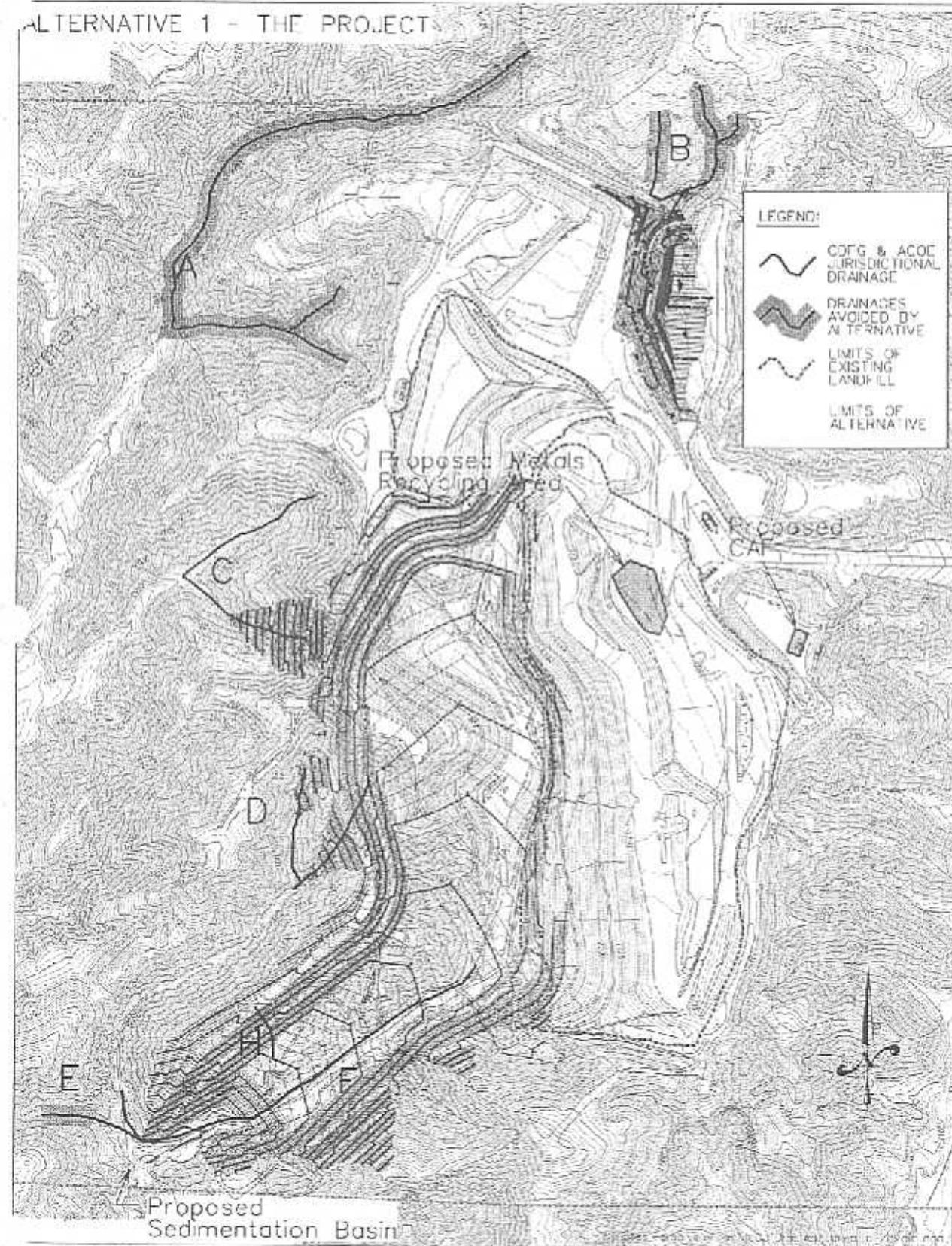


Figure 1. Lamb Canyon Expansion Project Alternative 1, Project as Designed
Riverside County Waste Management Department